



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **MAN SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 27 YEARS IN PRISON FOR NINE BANK ROBBERIES**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that JAMES VELEZ, 43, Anderson, Indiana, was sentenced to 327 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Larry J. McKinney following his guilty plea to nine counts of armed bank robbery and one count of brandishing a firearm during his ninth and final robbery. This case was the result of a investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Marion County Sheriff's Department.

VELEZ previously pleaded guilty to having robbed the following nine financial institutions in the Southern District of Indiana: (1) National Bank of Indianapolis, 6819 East 82<sup>nd</sup> Street, Indianapolis, on April 9, 2002; (2) Indiana Members Credit Union, 7470 East 82<sup>nd</sup>

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Street, Indianapolis, on April 23, 2002; (3) Madison Community Bank, 2825 Nichol Avenue, Anderson, on May 24, 2002; (4 and 5) Madison Community Bank, 1526 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, Anderson, on June 14, 2002, and on July 10, 2002; (6) First Indiana Bank, 7652 North Shadeland Avenue, Indianapolis, on July 22, 2002; (7) Credit Union Service Center, 6150 East 86<sup>th</sup> Street, Indianapolis, on July 31, 2002; (8) Union Bank, 325 South Main Street, Fortville, on August 8, 2002; and (9) Union Planters Bank, 3310 West 86th Street, Marion County, on August 23, 2002. VELEZ's spree came to an end when he was shot and wounded by a bank security guard after he displayed a loaded .38 caliber revolver during the robbery of the Union Planter's Bank.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Joe H. Vaughn, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge McKinney also imposed five years supervised release following VELEZ's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, VELEZ will be under the supervision of the court. VELEZ also was ordered to make restitution to the banks he robbed in the amount of \$187,083.

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